

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

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# National Register of Historic Places Registration Form

NATIONAL  
REGISTER

This form is for use in nominating or requesting determinations of eligibility for individual properties or districts. See instructions in *Guidelines for Completing National Register Forms* (National Register Bulletin 16). Complete each item by marking "x" in the appropriate box or by entering the requested information. If an item does not apply to the property being documented, enter "N/A" for "not applicable." For functions, styles, materials, and areas of significance, enter only the categories and subcategories listed in the instructions. For additional space use continuation sheets (Form 10-900a). Type all entries.

## 1. Name of Property

historic name Samuel A. Brown House

other names/site number

## 2. Location

street & number 302 West Sixth

☐ not for publication

city, town Newton

☐ vicinity

state Kansas

code KS

county Harvey

code 079

zip code 67114

## 3. Classification

Ownership of Property

☒ private

☐ public-local

☐ public-State

☐ public-Federal

Category of Property

☒ building(s)

☐ district

☐ site

☐ structure

☐ object

Number of Resources within Property

Contributing

1

Noncontributing

1 buildings

sites

structures

objects

1

1 Total

Name of related multiple property listing:

N/A

Number of contributing resources previously  
listed in the National Register 0

## 4. State/Federal Agency Certification

As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966, as amended, I hereby certify that this  
☒ nomination ☐ request for determination of eligibility meets the documentation standards for registering properties in the  
National Register of Historic Places and meets the procedural and professional requirements set forth in 36 CFR Part 60.  
In my opinion, the property ☒ meets ☐ does not meet the National Register criteria. ☐ See continuation sheet.

Signature of certifying official

State Historic Preservation Officer, Kansas State Historical Society

State or Federal agency and bureau

August 27, 1988

Date

In my opinion, the property ☐ meets ☐ does not meet the National Register criteria. ☐ See continuation sheet.

Signature of commenting or other official

Date

State or Federal agency and bureau

## 5. National Park Service Certification

I, hereby, certify that this property is:

☒ entered in the National Register.

☐ See continuation sheet.

☐ determined eligible for the National

Register. ☐ See continuation sheet.

☐ determined not eligible for the

National Register.

☐ removed from the National Register.

☐ other, (explain:)

Signature of the Keeper

Date of Action

## 6. Function or Use

Historic Functions (enter categories from instructions)

Domestic; Single dwelling;

Residence

Current Functions (enter categories from instructions)

Domestic; Single dwelling;

Residence

## 7. Description

Architectural Classification

(enter categories from instructions)

Late Victorian; Queen Anne

Materials (enter categories from instructions)

foundation Stone: limestone

walls Wood: weatherboard

roof Asphalt

other

Describe present and historic physical appearance.

The Samuel A. Brown house (c. 1878) is located at 302 West Sixth Street in Newton, Harvey County, Kansas (pop. 16,463). The two-story, frame Queen Anne vernacular house stands three blocks from downtown Newton on the south half of three lots at the corner of Sixth and Plum Streets. The house has a southern facade orientation and measures approximately thirty-six feet from north to south and thirty-eight feet from east to west. It retains its original function as a private residence and the Bullers are its sixth owners.

The two-story clapboarded and wood-shingled house stands on its original raised limestone block foundation. It is an almost square structure broken by a cutaway bay window projecting from the southern facade, another bay window on the east and a round tower on the southeast corner of the second floor, resting on the corner of the first story porch. A wrap-around porch extends from beside the bay window on the south to beside the bay window on the east. Another porch wraps around half of the otherwise plain north side to the west side of the house. Three exterior doors open onto these porches. The front door opens onto the south porch, a door in the front parlor opens onto that porch's eastern side and a door in the kitchen opens onto the west side of the back porch. Wooden clapboards cover most of the first story. The other story and attic are covered with three types of decorative shingles, including fishscale. The entire tower surface is covered with fishscale shingles and they are used on all four gables, as well as on parts of the bay windows and in bands between stories in some places. Diagonal wood cladding extends from under the south bay window around to the west porch and is also used under the east bay window on the first floor. Wooden designs or stickwork appear in three places on the house. A "rising sun" design formed from six arched pieces of wood in varying sizes occupies the rectangular area between the front windows of the south cutaway bay and the second story. A smaller rectangular area between the two front windows above the front porch on the second floor houses four boards cut to resemble a wavy pattern. On the front of the east bay window, in the center of the clapboards above the first story windows and the fishscale shingles and window on the second story is a wooden circle with six "wavy" boards in its center. Boards extend to the windows above and below this circle and also to the corner boards on either side. The north side is quite plain in comparison with clapboards on its first floor, wooden shingles on its second, fishscale shingles on the attic gable and horizontal raised bands of wood between stories and, of course, the porch on its northwest side wrapping around to the west.

## 8. Statement of Significance

Certifying official has considered the significance of this property in relation to other properties:

☐ nationally ☐ statewide ☒ locally

Applicable National Register Criteria ☐ A ☐ B ☒ C ☐ D

Criteria Considerations (Exceptions) ☐ A ☐ B ☐ C ☐ D ☐ E ☐ F ☐ G

Areas of Significance (enter categories from instructions)

Architecture

Period of Significance

1878-1880

Significant Dates

1878-1880

Cultural Affiliation

N/A

Significant Person

N/A

Architect/Builder

Unknown

State significance of property, and justify criteria, criteria considerations, and areas and periods of significance noted above.

The Samuel A. Brown House (c. 1878-1880) is being nominated to the National Register under criterion C for its architectural significance as a Queen Anne residence. Built by Samuel A. Brown, the Wells Fargo agent for Newton, the house stands as one of the community's earlier residences and maintains a high degree of architectural integrity. Brown lived in the house with his family from its completion in 1880 until his death in 1916.

The Samuel A. Brown House is a relatively simple example of the Queen Anne style. It derives its asymmetry from the gables, bays, and wrap-around porch that project from its symmetrical gable facaded body. Fishscale shingling on the second level gives the exterior walls texture and character. This is juxtaposed by lap siding on the first level. Carved wooden panels highlight some of the windows, pyramidal corner blocks terminate the window surrounds, and art glass decorates many of the first and second floor windows. The house retains its period woodwork, such as the incised staircase, door and window surrounds and sliding panel doors. Many elements of form are manipulated into a mildly exuberant display of texture and color, placing this house firmly within the perimeters of the Queen Anne style.

Brown came to Newton in 1872, the year that Newton was founded, as an agent for Adams Express. In 1881, Adams Express merged with Wells Fargo, Brown then became the Wells Fargo agent, with offices in the Santa Fe Depot. Brown maintained this position until his death. Express companies handled money and other valuables, using the trains for transport.

In 1874, Brown purchased two full blocks from the Newton Town Company. This area became known as Brown's Subdivision. Between 1873 and 1874 the Newton Town Company sold many residential lots, which they had purchased from the Santa Fe Railroad Company.

☒ See continuation sheet

## 9. Major Bibliographical References

Newton, City Directories, 1885; 1902; 1905, 1907; 1919.

Newton Evening Kansan-Republican, 7 February, 1916.

Newton Kansan, 21 November, 1872; 3 July 1873; 24 September 1874; 13 June 1878; 1 August, 1878; 8 May 1879; 13 January, 1881; 25 May, 1885.

Sanborn Insurance Maps - Newton, Kansas, 1882; 1896.

Wells Fargo Messenger, March, 1916.

Western Journal of Commerce. Souvenir Edition. Newton, Kansas. 1900.

☐ See continuation sheet

### Previous documentation on file (NPS):

- ☐ preliminary determination of individual listing (36 CFR 67) has been requested
- ☐ previously listed in the National Register
- ☐ previously determined eligible by the National Register
- ☐ designated a National Historic Landmark
- ☐ recorded by Historic American Buildings Survey # \_\_\_\_\_
- ☐ recorded by Historic American Engineering Record # \_\_\_\_\_

### Primary location of additional data:

- ☒ State historic preservation office
- ☐ Other State agency
- ☐ Federal agency
- ☐ Local government
- ☐ University
- ☐ Other

### Specify repository:

Kansas State Historical Society

## 10. Geographical Data

Acreage of property Less than 1 acre

### UTM References

A 

1	4	6	4	5	0	0	0	4	2	1	2	2	8	0
Zone		Easting				Northing								

C 

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B 

Zone		Easting				Northing								

D 

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☐ See continuation sheet

### Verbal Boundary Description

The nominated property is located on S 115' lots 2, 4, 6, Block 35 in Newton, Harvey County, Kansas. The property is bounded to the south by West Sixth, to the east by North Plum, and to the north and west by adjacent property lines.

☐ See continuation sheet

### Boundary Justification

The boundary includes all property historically associated with the Samuel A. Brown House, except that the lot now includes only the S 115' of Lots 2, 4, 6, Block 35. The small garage that sits to the northwest of the house is not included in this nomination.

☐ See continuation sheet

## 11. Form Prepared By

name/title Beverley Buller

organization Homeowner

street & number 302 West Sixth

city or town Newton

date August 25, 1988

telephone 913-284-2762

state Kansas zip code 67114

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The house has over twenty five windows, most of which are original and retain their original hardware and glass. Aluminum storm windows were installed by the third owner, who also enlarged the attic windows on the south side. The majority of windows are on the south side and are often grouped. The cutaway bay has four windows with two side by side windows on the second floor above it and a small attic gable window above it. A large picture window graces the front parlor near the front door and the front door itself has a window and a narrow rectangular window beside it. A small square window and a large square window were placed above the front porch on the second floor and the tower has three windows. Above these windows on the south side are the enlarged attic windows. Only two windows appear on the west side of the house; the east has one small square window plus four windows in its bay window. The north side has two windows on the first story, three on the second and a set of casement windows in the attic. The majority of windows have bands of stained glass at the top in varied colors. A few windows have two bands of stained glass. All original exterior windows have simple wooden surrounds but are accented with a wooden raised square at each corner. The lintel board on which the squares are placed extends to the other windows around it when the windows are on a clapboarded surface. These boards are wider than the clapboards and slightly raised in the center. Thinner bands of wood connecting the window sills appear on the tower. A gabled roof covers the house, with lower cross gables above the bay windows on the south and east. All four gables have a triangular section which juts forward and is covered with fishscale shingles. Asphalt or composite shingles now cover the roof which the Bullers want to replace with a more authentic wood or slate lookalike. A patterned brick chimney is visible on the east side of the gabled roof. Remains of the matching chimney on the west side can still be seen in the basement but the exterior was destroyed by a tornado in the 1960s and was never replaced.

Both porches exhibit the same porch supports, which have a sort of "I" carved in them. The front porch has curved (arched) brackets between the supports with thick latticework in their centers, while the back porch has a simple running design of short vertical pieces of wood extending from underneath the roof to a board underneath which connects with the porch supports. The porch rails in a 1901 photo of the house were not the traditional vertical style they are now, so we can assume they have been replaced. The front wrap-around porch has wooden steps at both ends, approaching the south and east doors. The south (front) entrance to this porch is gabled and exhibits a modified horseshoe style pediment. The east entrance is plain and both sets of steps have porch rails on either side of the steps. The back porch has lattice sections on its west, south and east sides and wooden steps rebuilt by the fifth owner on the north side. The lattice was most likely added after the house was built, perhaps by the second owner. Lattice work also covers the area between the ground and the porch floor on both porches; also not original. Both porch floors are wooden.

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The floorplan of the Samuel A. Brown house is generally symmetrical with two rooms in the front half of each story, two rooms in the back half and stairways up the center. The front door opens into a small foyer with front parlor on the east and dining room on the west. A main staircase rises to the second floor from this foyer. The front parlor adjoins a back parlor by wooden french doors and the dining room adjoins the kitchen by parlor and the fifth a single swinging wooden door. The two chimney are indicated in the kitchen and back parlor and the fifth owner exposed the chimney in the back parlor during resheetrocking of that room. A small hallway lies between the kitchen and the back parlor, running east and west. On its south wall the third owner, who ran a preschool, built a children's cloak area. On its north wall a small guest bathroom was installed and, next to it, a back stairway ascends to the second floor. A very small utility area lies behind these which can be reached from the kitchen or from a door in the back parlor. The basement stairs are at one side of this utility area, under the back stairway. Upstairs are four bedrooms the size of the rooms beneath them. Between the two north bedrooms, above the guest bathroom, is a larger full bathroom. Next to it is a door which opens onto the attic stairs. A small hallway between the attic door and the northeast bedroom leads to the back stairs. The attic was remodeled by the third owners and is completely carpeted and functional.

The house maintains its original imported pine woodwork with its original varnish. The motif of the woodwork is the same throughout the house. All ten-inch high floorboards are carved with a quarter-round at their base. All windows and doors have four and three-fourths inch wide carved surrounds mounted with an intricate bulls eye cornerblock. All original windows have carved bargeboards beneath their sills. All original windows have a brass plate surrounding the pulley ropes reading "Pat'd. Feb. 10, 1874." All doors and windows are original and retain most of their original beatifully carved hardware. The doors are the five panel floating design. Matching sets of pocket doors flank the entryway in the front parlor and dining room and are still in working order, although tempermental at times. The kitchen exterior door has its original thirty-seven by twenty inch etched glass door. The front door had a smaller etched glass inset but it was broken or removed during the fourth owner's stay. The Bullers plan to replace it with a similar piece. One set of original floor to ceiling built-in kitchen cabinets remains between the dining room and kitchen with five panel fronts opening into both rooms. The third owner replaced the drawers in the bottom half with two panel doors opening on both sides. The main staircase ascending from the foyer has carved newel posts and ball and spindle fretwork. A twenty-six inch high stair rail made of the same fretwork frames the open stairwell on the center of the second floor.

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The original pine flooring remains, although it is covered with carpeting in the bedrooms, parlors and hallways and with linoleum in the kitchen. The dining room floor retains its wood floor uncovered. The Bullers recently replaced linoleum in the foyer with oak parquet tiles, the flooring beneath being unsalvagable.

Very few original light fixtures remain. The brass dining room chandelier is said to be original, as are some small brass wall fixtures with dainty frosted glass shades in the attic, which the Bullers have placed in the bathrooms. Both parlor fixtures were carefully stored in the basement by the third owner when they were deemed unsuitable for a pre-school but were gone when the fifth owner purchased the house; supposedly they were sold by the fourth owner. Capped-off gas outlets are still visible upstairs but have been removed downstairs.

The Bullers have plans to maintain the home, restoring it wherever possible to its original state or a reflection of it. They plan to remove the kitchen linoleum and upstairs hallway carpet to reveal wood floors and, having painted the exterior in period colors, plan to wallpaper the foyer, dining room and second floor hallway in period wallpaper when finances permit.

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The construction of Brown's residence was noted in the local newspapers in the summer of 1878 and it was undoubtedly one of the first buildings constructed on the two blocks. The address was listed in the first Newton city directory of 1885. Until the 1960s the house occupied a yard made up of Lots 2, 4, and 6, Block 35, now it occupies only the south 115 feet of those lots. The house stands at the edge of a commercial zone in an area that is beginning to become revitalized.

In 1919 the house was purchased from Brown's estate by the Bowman family, who lived there until the 1960s. Four other families, including the present owners have lived in the house since then. The present owners are carefully reclaiming, cleaning, and repairing the house.